



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION
H. SOOK WILKINSON, PhD, CHAIR

DANIEL H. KRICHBAUM, PhD
DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release

Media Contact

Connie Dang, Vice Chair
conniedang2@gmail.com
Phone: 616/481-7279

**Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission decries Marion Barry's
Remarks**

Lansing—While celebrating a victory in the Democratic primary council race in Washington, DC last week, Councilman Marion Barry made a derogatory comment about Asian business owners.

"We would expect that in the nation's Capital, elected officials would be sensitive to refraining from using racial and ethnic slurs. Instead, Councilman Barry's comments served to both offend and further divide our nation's people. His comment perpetuates stereotypes about immigrant communities and fuels animosity toward Asian Pacific Americans. And, these comments are counterproductive to Michigan's efforts to welcome immigrants to our state. With partner organizations across the nation, we call on him to both retract his statement and to issue a heartfelt apology about his inappropriate remarks," said Connie Dang, Vice Chair, Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission.

The Commission, in existence since 1987 in various forms, serves to inform the Governor, the Legislature and the citizens of Michigan on the culture, as well as the concerns of Asian Pacific Americans. To learn more about the Commission, please visit www.michigan.gov/mapaac.

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